

CLAIMS:

1. A pumping light generator comprising:

two pumping light sources;

a combiner to combine pumping lights output from the two pumping

5 light sources in orthogonal state of polarization; and

a degree-of-polarization reducer to reduce the degree of polarization of the light output from the polarizing beam combiner.

2. The pumping light generator of claim 1 wherein the degree-of-polarization reducer comprises a depolarizing element to
10 depolarize the output light from the combiner.

3. The pumping light generator of claim 1 wherein the degree-of-polarization reducer comprises a birefringent medium.

4. The pumping light generator of claim 3 wherein the birefringent medium is disposed so as to output each input pumping light from each
15 polarization axis of the birefringent medium at practically equal optical power to other.

5. The pumping light generator of claim 3 wherein the birefringent medium comprises polarization dispersion longer than a coherence length of the output light from each pumping light source.

20 6. The pumping light generator of claim 3 wherein the birefringent medium comprises either one of rutile crystal and YVO₄.

7. A pumping light generator comprising:

a plurality of pumping light sources;

a combiner to combine output lights from the plurality of pumping light sources; and

a degree-of-polarization reducer to reduce the degree of polarization of the light output from the combiner.

5 8. The pumping light generator of claim 7 wherein the degree-of-polarization reducer comprises a depolarizing element to depolarize the output light from the combiner.

9. The pumping light generator of claim 7 wherein the degree-of-polarization reducer comprises a birefringent medium.

10 10. The pumping light generator of claim 9 wherein the birefringent medium is disposed so as to output each input pumping light from each polarization axis of the birefringent medium at practically equal optical power to the others.

11. The pumping light generator of claim 9 wherein the birefringent
15 medium comprises polarization dispersion longer than a coherence length of the light output from each pumping light source.

12. The pumping light generator of claim 9 wherein the birefringent medium comprises either one of rutile crystal and YVO_4 .

13. The pumping light source of claim 7 wherein the degree-of-
20 polarization reducer comprises the first and the second birefringent mediums in which each polarization dispersion is longer than a coherence length of the output light from each pumping light, one polarization dispersion differs twice as much as the other one, and

the second birefringent medium is arranged behind the first birefringent medium so that the light passed through the first birefringent medium is output from two polarization axes of the second birefringent medium at almost the equivalent optical power.